

**REMARKS**

Claim 1 has been amended to more clearly define the present invention over the cited references, U.S. Patent No. 4,061,443 and U.S. Patent Application No. 2003/0068245. The limitations added by the way of the amended claim now define a construction which leads to a flexible valve having a minimum rigidity obtained from a sheet with a thinner thickness without impairing its resistance to bending and to bending fatigue.

The construction now defined in amended claim 1 results in the opening forces acting against the sealing end portion 14 to cause stress distribution along the higher bending portion 17 and avoiding stress concentration of the opening forces in the region adjacent the fixation end portion to prevent shortening of the working life of the valve caused by bending fatigue.

In view of the above amendment, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

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Respectfully submitted,

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